

From: Double 'S'
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am part of the Spanish Speaking BeOS Community.

I have been promoting BeOS among friends and small companies for 2 years now, and are now helping to bring BeOS (now from PALM) back again to the community.

But to get people really using BeOS or to get more people or small companies trying out BeOS, some changes are needed in Microsoft policies.

One drawback for novice computer users to try out BeOS or any other OS is the lack of easy of coexistence with Microsoft Operating Systems, aggravated in the new releases which deliberately kick out of the computer during install any bootmanager other than Microsoft. In Windows Me the BeOS Windows Compatible Loader does strangely "not work anymore".

The other main problem is the license policy of Microsoft Proprietary File Formats. Since MS Office Suite has a huge market share, it's almost impossible for Small Offices to work in team with other companies if they are not able to open (and save to) Microsoft file formats. This is also the case for the many Microsoft Proprietary Media File Formats used on the Internet.

While Microsoft often license their File Formats or Technology to companies that endorse MS Windows, they deliberately do not to companies that endorse other Operating Systems.

It will be almost impossible under these Microsoft practices for BeOS to gain market again if:

- Microsoft does not use a more flexible Licensing of their File Formats (Office and Media / Internet)
- Microsoft don't stop bringing competing new file formats and implementing them by brute force to compete with already good multiplatform file formats of other companies
- Microsoft Windows Installer and Bootmanagers keep deleting other Bootmanagers and Loaders.

I do respect the effort and market gain of Microsoft, but many tactics have forced better solutions of competing companies out of the market, and they seem not to endorse any Technology that improves quality of computing for all users worldwide if this technology is not in their very best economical interest.

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